

# LINCOLN'S CHALLENGE ACADEMY

## *Changing Young Lives*

### LCA Mission

- ▶ Train
- ▶ Mentor
- ▶ Develop into contributing community members



### 8-Core Objectives

- ▶ Academic Excellence
- ▶ Job Skills
- ▶ Physical Fitness
- ▶ Leadership/ Followership
- ▶ Health, Sex Education & Nutrition
- ▶ Life Coping Skills
- ▶ Responsible Citizenship
- ▶ Community Service

### Illinois Department of Military Affairs - Illinois Army & Air National Guard

More than 40,000 youths drop out of high school each year in Illinois and become part of an "at-risk" population.

The Lincoln's ChalleNGe program began in 1993 as a pilot program to determine if a highly-structured environment, using a military model, could significantly improve coping skills and employability of high school dropouts.

Since its inception, Lincoln's ChalleNGe has proven very successful in achieving this aim.

Education is one of the core objectives of the program. Approximately 75 percent of Lincoln's ChalleNGe graduates earn their GED as

compared to the state average pass rate of 53 percent. ChalleNGe graduates return to their communities and demonstrate the success of this "second chance" program.

▶ Jobs	26%	▶ College	22%
▶ Adult Ed.	13%	▶ Military	5%
▶ VoTech	3%	▶ Other	7%

When it began in 1993 as pilot program, Lincoln's ChalleNGe was

- ▶ 75% federally funded
- ▶ 25% state funded

Since becoming a permanent program, state funding increased by 5% each year until it reached 40%. Funding for Lincoln's ChalleNGe is the largest single state budget line item for the Department of Military Affairs

### Graduates by Region

Lincoln's ChalleNGe members come from across Illinois, bringing a variety of backgrounds and cultures to the program.

The program breakdown of participants by ethnicity is:

▶ African American	54%
▶ Caucasian American	29%
▶ Hispanic American	15%
▶ Other	2%

The approximate number of graduates by region is:

### Program Structure

- ▶ 22-week Resident Phase
  - conducted in a quasi-military environment
- ▶ 12-month Post-Resident Phase
  - graduates return to their communities
  - paired with mentors who provide positive support and reinforces the life skills learned in residence.

### Annual Budget

National Average cost per student =  
\$14,000 for 17.5 months

*The lowest of cost per youth compared to other at-risk youth programs.*

